

GRAPHIC  
BIOGRAPHY

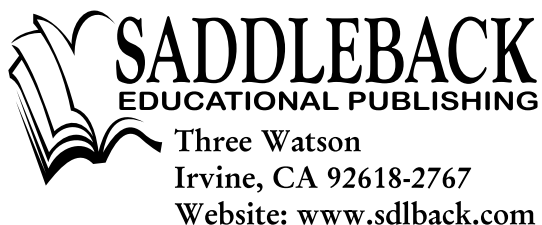
# Jackie Robinson



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# Saddleback's Graphic Biographies



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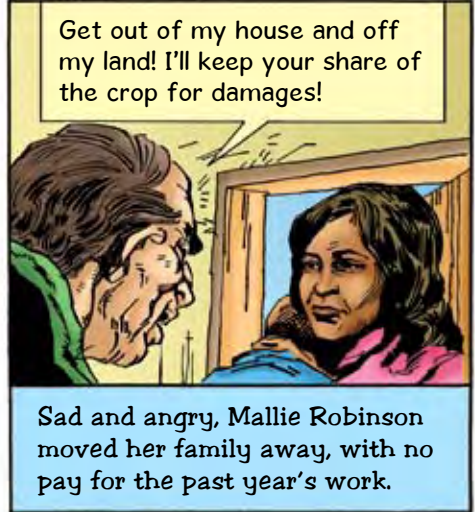
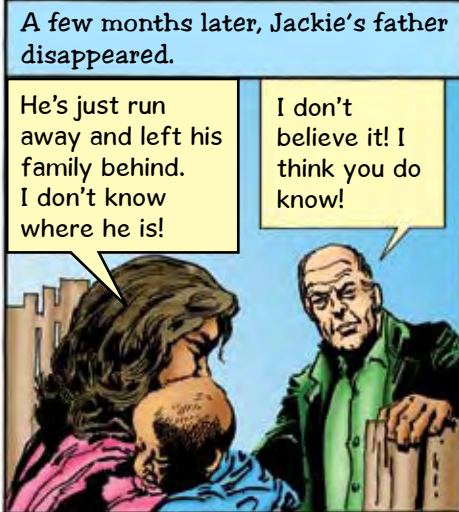
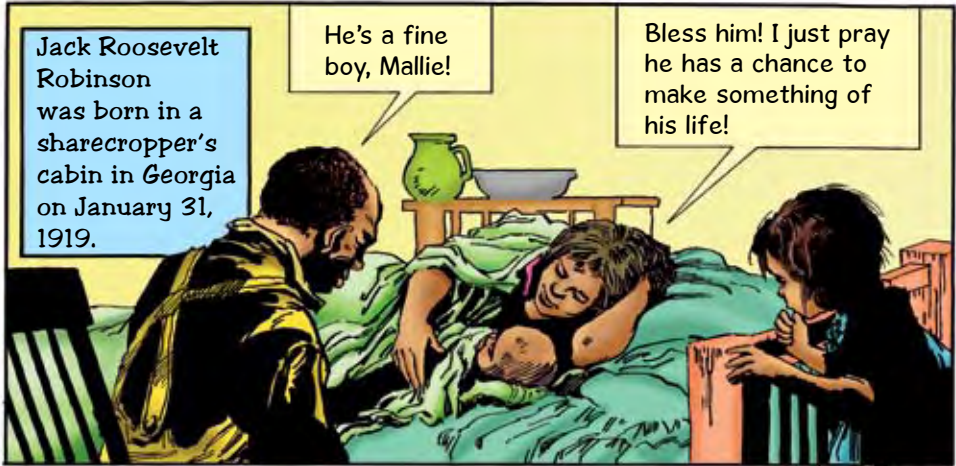


## JACKIE ROBINSON

The year was 1947. In Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, one black man stood alone at first base—the first African American ever to play baseball in the major leagues.



IN HIS TEN YEARS  
WITH THE BROOKLYN DODGERS,  
JACKIE ROBINSON  
BROKE THE COLOR BARRIER  
AND CHANGED  
THE SPORTS WORLD.





They left Georgia in May 1920.

Here it comes,  
children, the  
freedom train!



But in Pasadena,  
California, things  
were not much  
better at first.

Now children, mind  
your aunt while I go  
out to find a job.



I can't find this  
address. I'll ask  
in here.



I wonder if  
you could  
help me.

That's what we  
are here for!



A little later, Mrs. Robinson returned home.

Mallie! I didn't know you in those clothes!

Welfare gave them to me—and clothes for the children, too!



Best of all they gave me a grocery order. And money to help with the rent! And I got a job!



Later, Mrs. Robinson's sister died.

Willa Mae, I have to work. There's no one to look after Jackie. You'll have to take him to school with you.



But at school ...

But Willa Mae, you can't bring your brother to school! He's too little! He can't even talk!



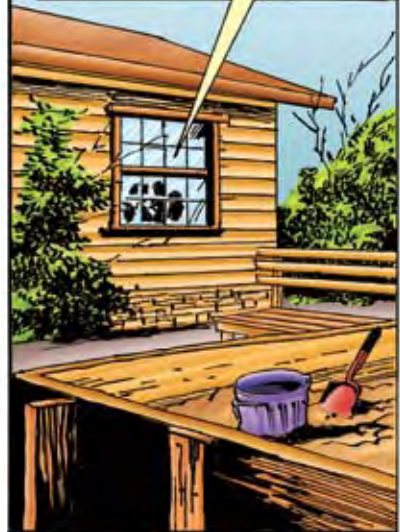


The next day, Mrs. Robinson went to school with the children.



I'd rather work than ask welfare for more money. But I can't work if I have to stay home with Jackie!

Could Willa Mae just leave Jackie in the sandbox everyday? He's a good boy. He won't bother anybody!



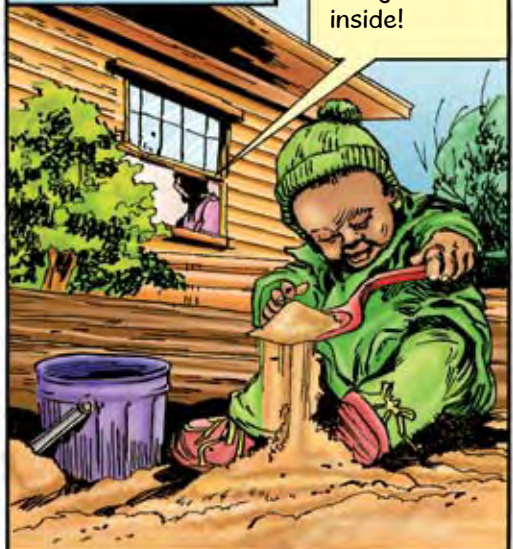
All right Mrs. Robinson, go to work and don't worry. We'll look after Jackie.

Thank you!



So Jackie spent his first school year in the sandbox.

Willa Mae, there's a storm coming. Bring Jackie inside!











But in high school, Jackie found a better way to spend his time.

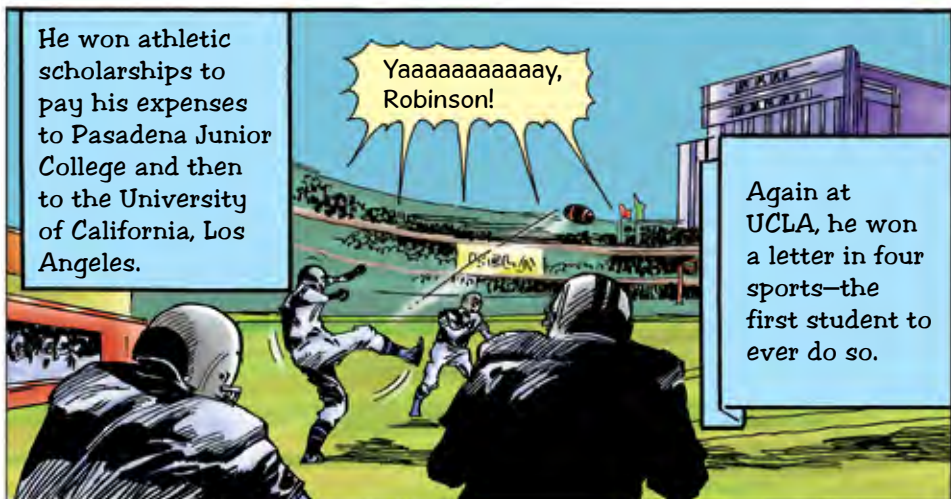


When he graduated in 1937, he had won a letter in each of four sports.

He won athletic scholarships to pay his expenses to Pasadena Junior College and then to the University of California, Los Angeles.

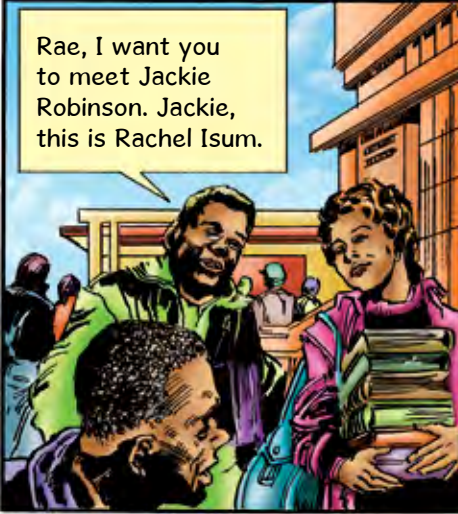
Yaaaaaaaaaaaay, Robinson!

Again at UCLA, he won a letter in four sports—the first student to ever do so.



Also, he met a young lady.

Rae, I want you to meet Jackie Robinson. Jackie, this is Rachel Isum.



Soon they were great friends.

It's funny ... I can tell you anything and you understand it, even if you disagree!

And it's funny, but before I met you, I thought you were just a stuck-up football player!



Then, before he finished his last college year, Jackie was offered a job.

But Jackie, you should finish college and get your degree.

It is the kind of job that I want working with young people. And I want to help you. You've been working hard ever since I can remember!



But in a few months, World War II broke out in Europe. Jackie's government job was cancelled.

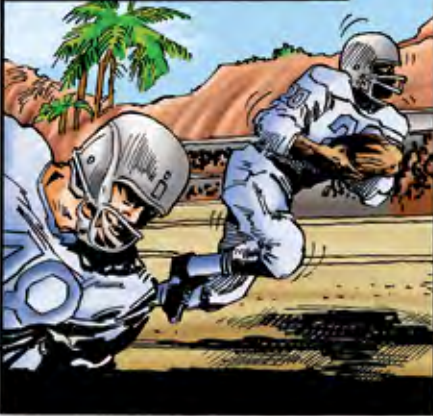
You're a great athlete. Can't you get a job as a professional?

No major football, baseball, or basketball clubs hire black players! But I have been offered a job with the Honolulu Bears.





He went to Honolulu.  
On weekends he played  
football with the Bears.



During the week he worked at a  
construction job near Pearl Harbor.

What are these  
things we're  
building?

Ammunition  
shelters.  
Guess they're  
expecting  
trouble.



The football season ended. On  
December 5, 1941, Jackie sailed  
for home. Two days later ...



The Japanese have  
bombed Pearl Harbor,  
and the United States  
is at war! We hope to  
reach port safely, but  
we are passing out  
life jackets.

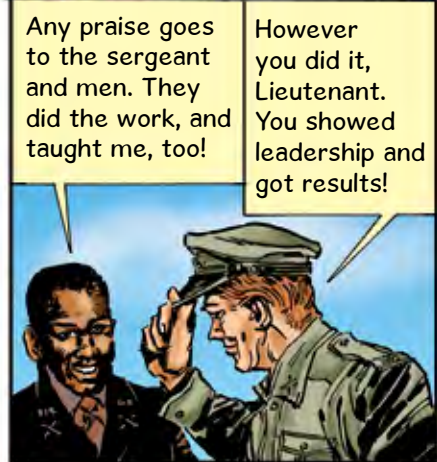
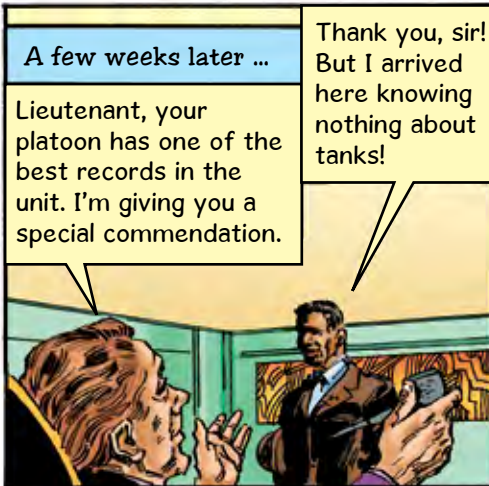
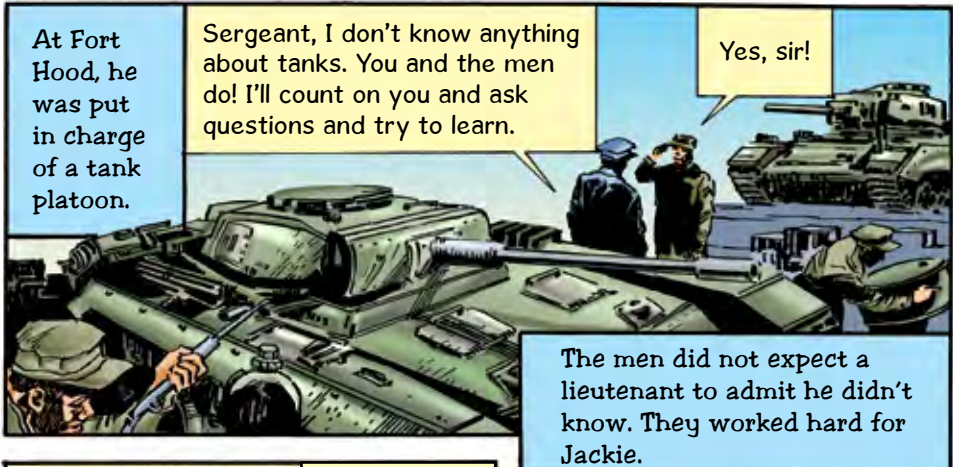


At home  
again, Jackie  
was soon in  
the army.  
He went  
to officer's  
training  
school and  
became a  
lieutenant.

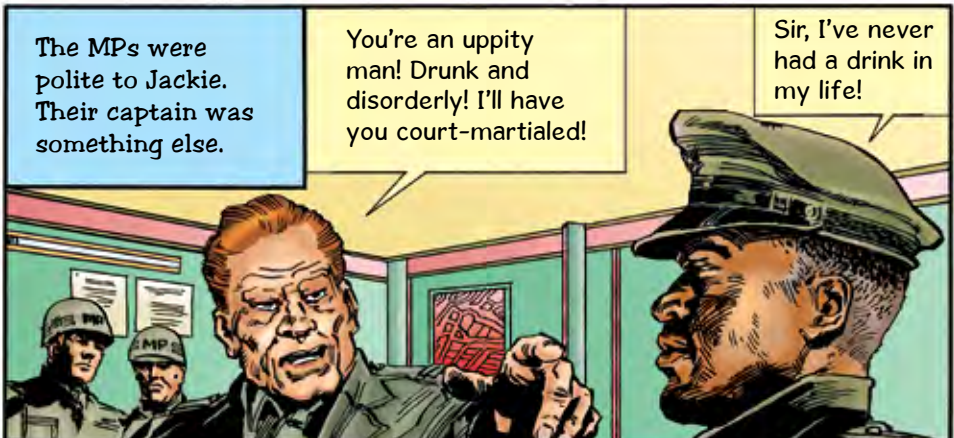
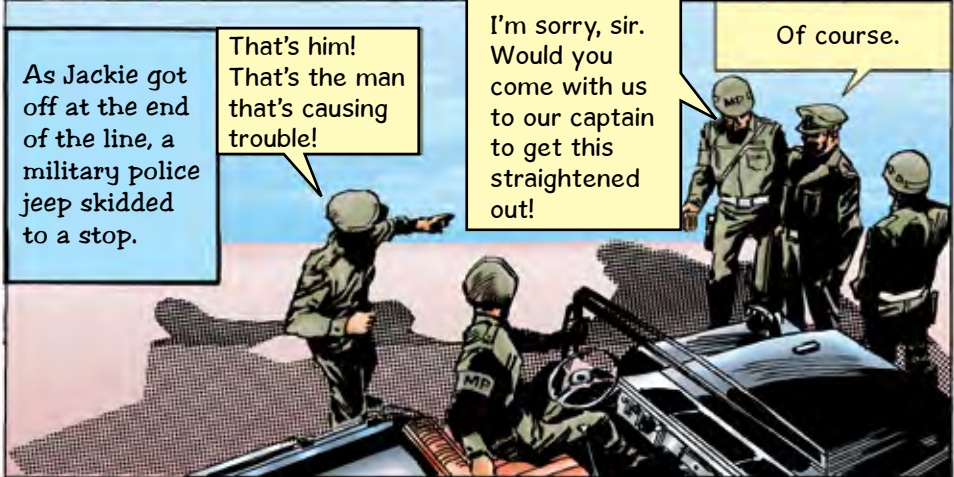
Lieutenant Robinson,  
report to the 761st Tank  
Battalion at Fort Hood,  
Texas.

Yes, sir!









Later, Jackie's colonel sent for him.

They've made charges. There will be a court-martial, but I intend to see that any man in my outfit, black or white, is treated fairly!

That's all I ask, sir.



Other black officers backed Jackie.

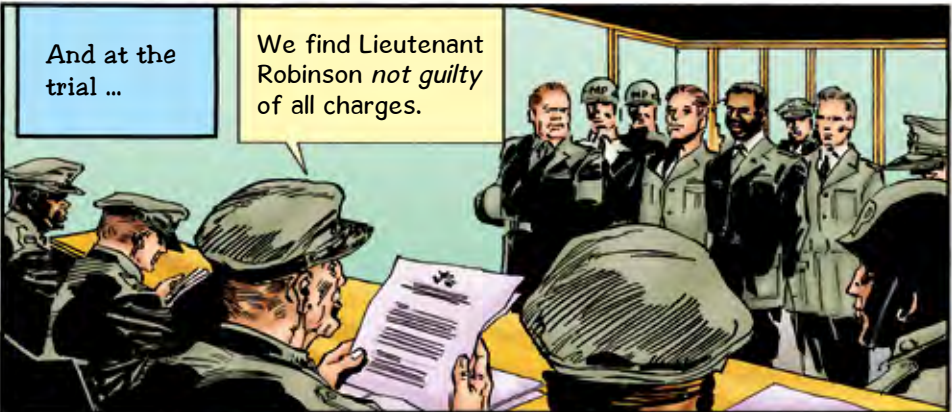
We'll see that the country knows what's happening. We're writing to the newspapers.

And to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People!



And at the trial ...

We find Lieutenant Robinson *not guilty* of all charges.



Soon after, Jackie was discharged from the army. He hurried home.

I have a job playing baseball with a black team, the Kansas City Monarchs. Let's get married!

Soon, Jackie. But let's see how it turns out.





Playing baseball with the Monarchs was good, but ...

Seems like we spend all our time riding buses.

All night and playing baseball all day. I don't know how long I can stand it!



The food was bad, too.

Greasy hamburgers and cold coffee. We never have a decent meal!

Yeah! They'll sell food to blacks—as long as we take it outside to eat it!



I want to make some money, get married, and help my mother. But how? There's just no future for an African American athlete in this Jim Crow world!

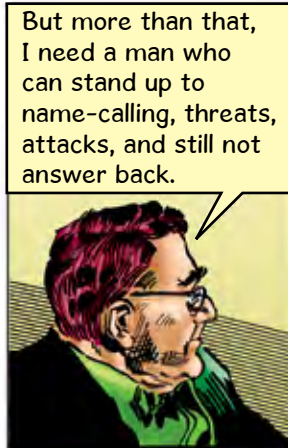
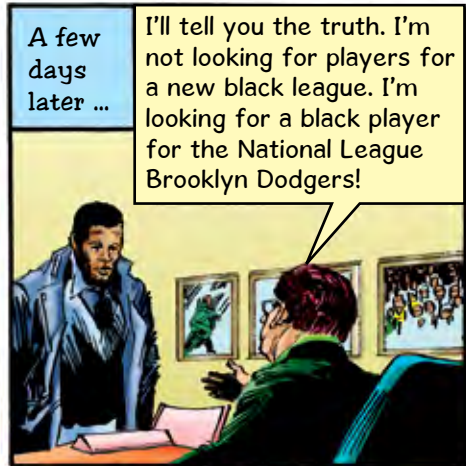


And then ...

Look, Robinson, Branch Rickey, the boss of the Brooklyn Dodgers, wants to start a new league for black players.

So?







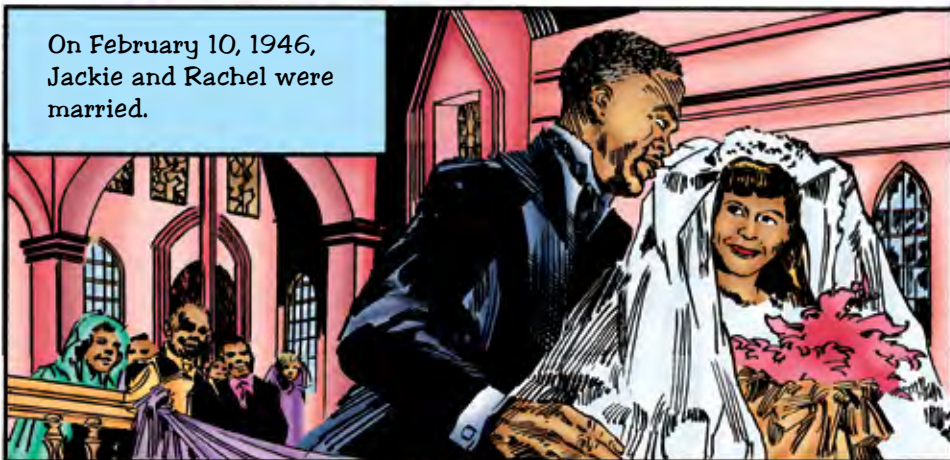
They talked for three hours. They became friends. Over and over Rickey warned Jackie of the troubles he would face. He agreed to play, starting at the Dodgers' farm club, the Montreal Royals.

Then ...

Now go call up your girl! There are times when a man needs a wife by his side!



On February 10, 1946, Jackie and Rachel were married.



Soon, they took a plane for spring training camp in Florida.

I'm a little scared going into the South for the first time!

I know California's not perfect, but at least there we could stand up for ourselves!



They landed in New Orleans.

You'll have to get off here—military priority.

But we have tickets to Daytona Beach!



After 12 hours, they flew on to Pensacola.

These seats are taken. You'll have to leave.

And how do we get to Daytona Beach?



They finished the trip riding for 16 hours in the back of a Jim Crow bus.



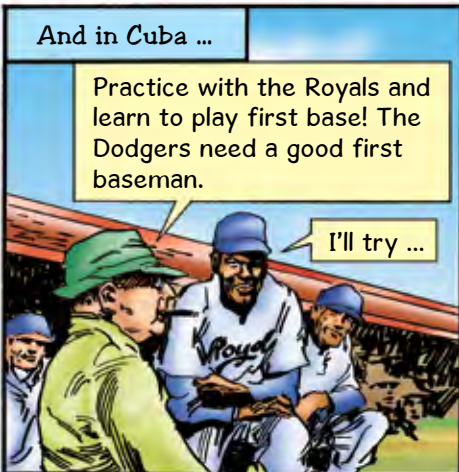
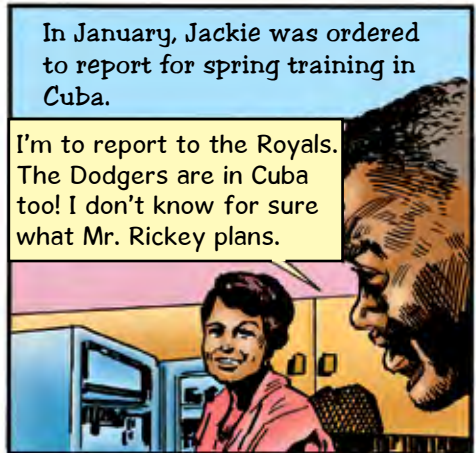
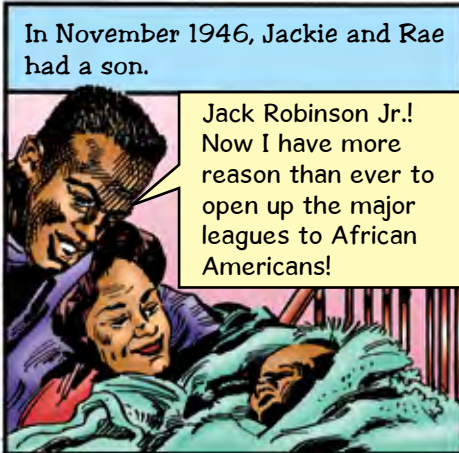
In spring training, things went well. But when they were scheduled to play a game in Jacksonville ...

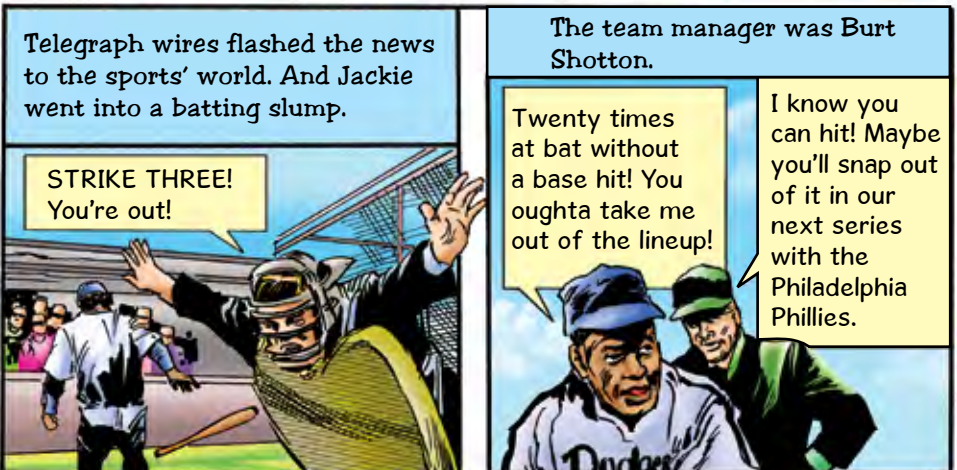
We're supposed to play a game here this afternoon!

Game's called off. A city law says blacks and whites can't play together!

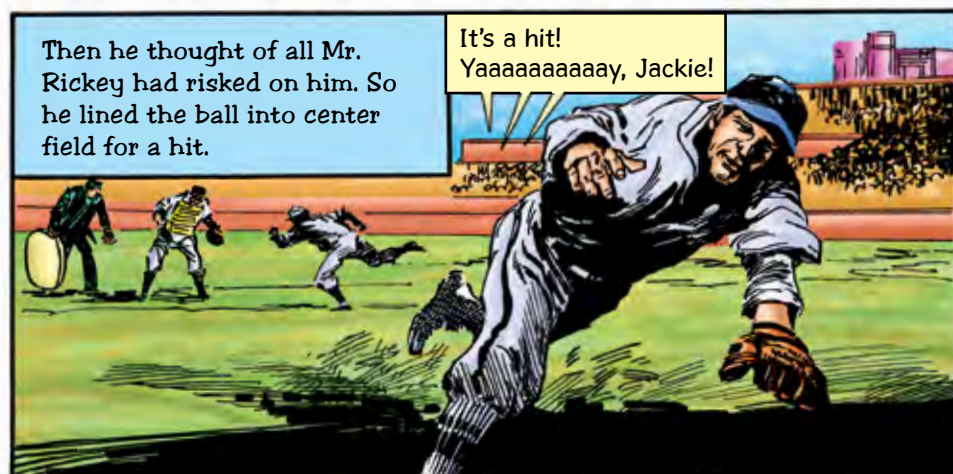












Since Jackie could not answer the insults, some of his teammates began to stand up for him.

You yellow-bellied cowards!



Many more balls were pitched directly at Jackie than at other players.



Every mail delivery was full of crank letters.

Threats to kidnap Jack Jr., to attack your wife, to kill you. I'm turning them over to the police.



But the Dodgers won the National League Pennant for the first time in six years; and a "Jackie Robinson Day" was held at Ebbets Field to honor him.

He has played in more games, scored more runs, hit safely more times, hit 12 home runs, and has led the team in stolen bases!





In 1949 a new day dawned for Jackie.

You've been a great ball player and a fine gentleman! Thanks to you there are five black players in the Majors and more on the way!



From now on, do what you feel like!

You mean pop off when I get mad like any other player? Great!



With the pressure removed, Jackie played better than ever.



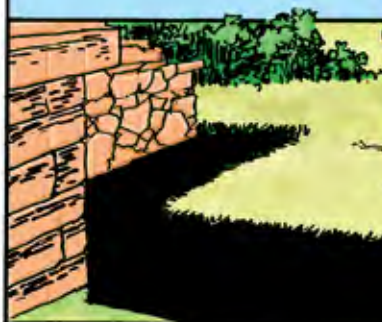
JACKIE ROBINSON  
NAMED MOST  
VALUABLE PLAYER

ROBINSON LEADS  
DODGERS TO  
ANOTHER PENNANT

ROBINSON ELECTED  
TO ALL-STAR TEAM  
BY RECORD VOTE

In his ten years with the Dodgers, they won the Pennant six times, and the World Series once.

Jackie and Rae had two more children and moved to the house of their dreams in Stamford, Connecticut.



Come on, Jack! Strike him out!



After ten years with the Dodgers, Jackie retired from baseball and took a new job.

As you know, I'm the President of the Chock Full O'Nuts restaurant chain. We'd like to have you on our team, as Vice President.

If it's a real job, not just a publicity gimmick, I'd be interested!



We need you as personnel director. Most of our employees are African American. We have problems with turnover, absenteeism, and so on.

Good! I think I can do it!



Later, he talked with Roy Wilkins, head of the NAACP.

Jackie, will you head our Freedom Fund drive, a national effort to raise funds for our work?

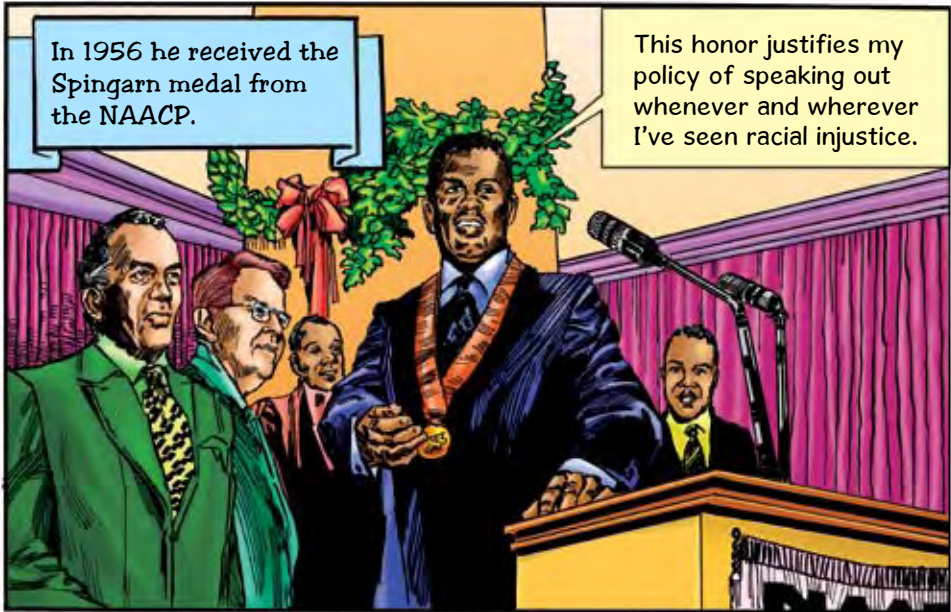
I'd be proud to!



He traveled across country speaking about the work of the NAACP. The fund drive was a big success.

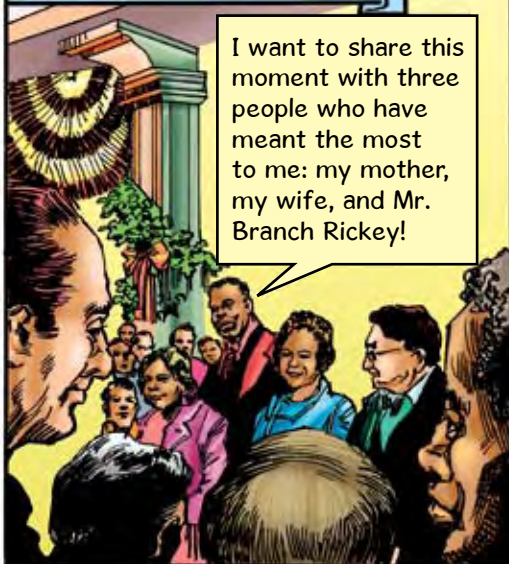






In 1962 Jackie was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was the first black player ever eligible for the honor.

At the ceremony in Cooperstown ...



That same year, Jackie wrote to Nelson Rockefeller, Governor of New York.

I am pointing out to the governor that not a single black has a top-level job or access to the governor to tell him of our concern and grievances.



As a result, Jackie met with Rockefeller. They worked together to bring about reforms.



Until the day in 1972 when a fatal heart attack struck him down, he never stopped working to correct injustice. People crowded the New York streets to watch his funeral procession.

There was never a more thrilling moment in baseball than watching Jackie Robinson steal home base!

The Reverend Jesse Jackson spoke.

This man turned stumbling blocks into stepping-stones and reminded us of our birthright to be free!







## — TITLES IN THIS SERIES —

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Franklin D. Roosevelt  
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